



CALIFORNIA
FRESH FRUIT
ASSOCIATION



California
**CITRUS
MUTUAL**

August 15, 2025

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1264 (Gabriel) – Ultra-Processed Foods

Dear Chair Caballero:

On behalf of California's citrus and fresh fruit industry, we write to express our support for AB 1264, which defines "ultra-processed foods" in law and establishes a phased approach to reducing their availability in California's K-12 public schools.

The citrus and fresh fruit industry initially opposed this bill due to concerns that, as originally drafted, it could inadvertently include nutritious, whole fruit products—such as sliced fruit, dried fruit, and 100% fruit juice—in the definition of "ultra-processed." Contrary to the original language, these products are wholesome and nourishing, grown sustainably in California and served around the world. They are staples in school meals, provide essential nutrients to children, and represent the core of California's globally renowned fruit production sector.

We deeply appreciate Assemblymember Gabriel's leadership and willingness to engage with agricultural stakeholders throughout the legislative process. As a result of thoughtful negotiations, AB 1264 was amended to ensure that whole, minimally processed fruit products are clearly excluded from the definition of ultra-processed foods.

With these amendments, we are pleased to shift our position from opposition to support. AB 1264 seeks to strike an important balance: targeting truly ultra-processed, low-nutrient foods while preserving student access to the healthy, California-grown fruits that are vital to nutrition and childhood development.

California is a national leader in both agriculture and child health policy. We appreciate the collaborative process with the author to promote legislation that advances both public health and agricultural sustainability. We thank the author and committee for their commitment to protecting student health. For these reasons, we respectfully urge your aye vote on AB 1264.

Sincerely,

Casey D. Creamer, President/CEO
California Citrus Mutual

Daniel Hartwig, President
California Fresh Fruit Association

cc: The Honorable Jesse Gabriel, California State Assembly
Members, Senate Appropriations Committee